



# NRC NEWS

## UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, REGION II

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### **NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$3,000 CIVIL PENALTY AGAINST PUERTO RICO FIRM FOR VIOLATION OF NRC RADIATION SAFETY REQUIREMENTS**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$3,000 civil penalty against Rio Construction Corporation of Caparra Heights, Puerto Rico, for violation of NRC safety requirements related to the use of licensed radioactive material.

In a letter to the company, Luis A. Reyes, Administrator of the NRC's Region II office in Atlanta, said that, between January and March of 2001, an individual used a soil moisture density gauge containing licensed radioactive material approximately twice per week without having received adequate, required radiation safety training and without being under the supervision and in the physical presence of authorized users.

Reyes said no actual radiological consequences occurred as a result of the violation, but that the civil penalty was being proposed because of the deliberate nature of the violation and to "emphasize the importance of prompt identification of issues and compliance with regulatory requirements."

The NRC's letter, its enclosures and the company's response will be made available to interested members of the public through the agency's public electronic reading room at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/ADAMS.html>. Help in accessing the document is available from the NRC Public Document Room at 301 415-4737 or at 1-800-397-4209.

The company has 30 days from receipt of the letter to either pay the civil penalty or to protest its imposition.

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